

Vasa Lutheran Church

Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, November 30, 2025

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In the darkest times we cannot see to make our way...
our eyes adjust, but still everything is shadowed and grey.

We reach out, desperate

for comfort

for balance

for the familiar

for hope

In the darkest times,
even a faltering light can be just enough:
the flame flickers, twinkles—and it is dazzling!
For in its light, we see light: God in our midst.

~Candle is lit~

We sing:

1. Kindle Advent candles.
Hope will be renewed.
Dreams may fade from vision:
Purpose unpursued.
Though it seems relentless –
Misery and loss.
God will do a new thing:
Swift and soft.

*Sung to the tune: Cranham, the same tune used for "In the Bleak Midwinter."
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2024*

However impossible it seems,
God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting,
and blessed is the one gifted with God's vision.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

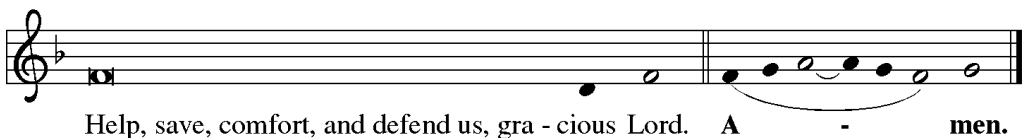
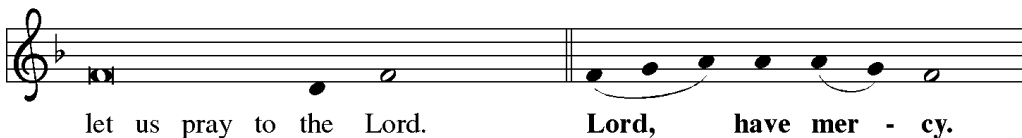
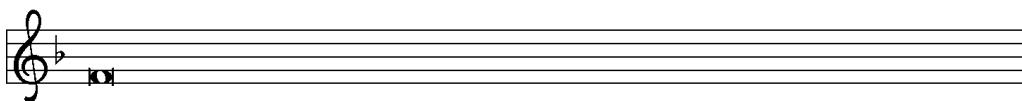
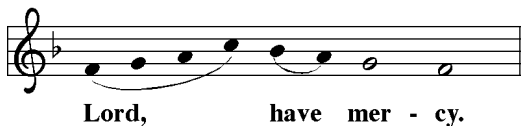
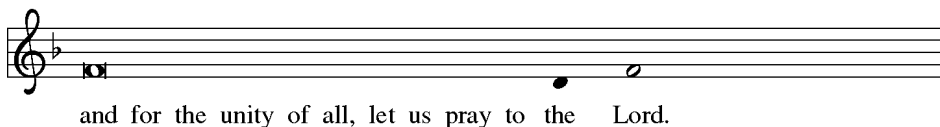
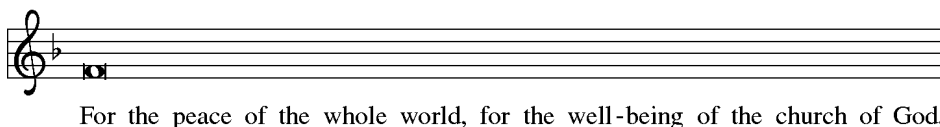
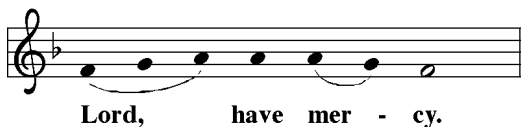
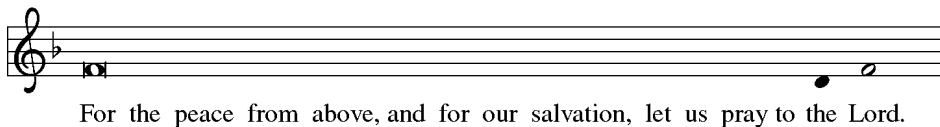
**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
† You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: EACH WINTER AS THE YEAR GROWS OLDER ELW 252
We will sing verses 1 through 4.

GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: God of breath, **You promised new life to your people in exile by breathing into a valley full of dry bones. Breathe new life into us, so that we might live passionately for you. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

AWAKE, O SLEEPER, RISE FROM DEATH

ELW 452

SERMON

HYMN

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

ELW 256

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Each petition will end with the words: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Give us the courage to follow in the foot steps of Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share God's peace with one another.

GENEROSITY MOMENT

SENDING HYMN

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

ELW 294

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Bruce Tilderquist
Reader: Katie Featherstone
Hospitality: Sue Hedeon

Worship Assistants Next Week

December 7

Usher: Duane Hanson
Reader: Jeannette Anderson
Hospitality: Kent Volz
Communion Asst.: *Volunteer Needed*

Parish Pulse:

Nov. 23

Participating in Worship: **72**

+ **10** Live Streams

Total Offerings:

November 23rd \$ 1,035



Wendy Anderson, Jay
Mikaelsen, Scott
Sorenson, Lorrie
Samuelson, Lynda
Rosener Sack, Murlyn
Rosener, Terri Fredin,
Terri Mandelkow, Jake
Jacobson, Connor
Mikolichuk (Rosann
Pearson's grandson), and
Roger Guttromson.



Christmas Poinsettias

This year's Poinsettias order forms are available.
Deadline for the order forms is **Dec. 4th**. Forms
are located at the back of the Church and by the
office in the Lutheran Center. Call the office with
any questions

Gather the Goods

This December, join us in showing the generosity of Vasa Lutheran Church by participating in one of these multiple opportunities to bless individuals and families in our community. Pick a color coordinated tag on the giving tree to support our community. This “Gather the Goods” drive will continue through December 24th.



Valley View
Recovery Center
Cannon Falls, MN

Valley View Recovery Center is an addiction and mental health treatment facility in Cannon Falls. We are collecting clean and gently used Men’s winter coats, shoes, and socks. Items need not be new.



HOPE Coalition
Red Wing, MN

HOPE Coalition is a Women’s Shelter in Red Wing. We are collecting cleaning supplies, dish soap, sponges, baby wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, sanitizing wipes, and feminine products.



Goodhue County
Christmas
Project

Goodhue County Christmas Project blesses low-income families in the county with Christmas gifts. Vasa has “adopted” two families this year.

Due Date Dec. 14th



Food Shelf
Red Wing &
Cannon Falls

Donate items for the local food shelves, or give a cash donation. All cash donations will be matched by two generous donors. This means a \$5 cash gift will become \$15!

MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER 30, 2025

EACH WINTER AS THE YEAR GROWS OLDER

Text and music © 1971 United Church Press

AWAKE, O SLEEPER, RISE FROM DEATH

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg
Fortress

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine
Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

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